

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 NEA-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/138 W

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P R 160941Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4138

INFORUESAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 3264

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU

SUBJ: RPP TO MEET ON FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

REF: ANKARA 3724

SUMMARY: IN AFTERMATH OF ADVERSE VOTE ON AMNESTY ISSUE,
PARTY ASSEMBLY OF THE PREDOMINANT COALITION PARTNER IN THE
GOVERNMENT, THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), WILL MEET
IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 16 TO CONSIDER FUTURE OF COALITION, AND
WILL EVIDENTLY DISCUSS WHETHER GOVERNMENT SHOULD RESIGN.
MOST OBSERVERS GIVE COALITION GOVERNMENT A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE
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OF SURVIVING PRESENT CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

1. PARLIAMENT PASSED AMNESTY BILL EVENING OF MAY 15 WITH EXCLUSION OF OFFENSES PRIMIN ECEVIT WAS COMMITTED TO INCLUDE-SO-CALLED "CRIMES OF THOUGHT" AND COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES-AND SENT IT TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE.

2. HIGHEST ORGAN(WFTER GENERAL CONGRES) OF RPP WILL MEET THIS AFTERNOON (MAY 16) TO DECIDE ON FUTURE OF COALITION, AND BY IMPLICATION ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE OR RESIGN. ADDRESSING RPP GROUP ON MAY 15, ECEVIT REMARKED THAT QUOTE THE RPP-NSP COALITION IS IN THE POSITION OF NOT HAVING FULFILLED ITS PROMISE ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT (THE AMNESTY)... I SEE NO ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL NOT COME ACROSS SIMILAR SITUATIONS ON OTHER TOPICS TOMORROW...IF THE BRANCH IS CRACKING THERE IS NO POINT ON HOLDING ON TO IT. UNQUOTE.

3. MEANWHILE, NSP LEADER ERBAKAN ON MAY 15 REPRIMANDED TWENTY DISSIDENTS WHO VOTED AGAINST GOVERNMENT ON AMNESTY ISSUE, AND SAID THAT THEY SHOULD SOMEHOW RECTIFY THEIR MISTAKE AT ALL COSTS. HOWEVER, HE REPORTEDLY WAS UNABLE TO PAPER OVER RIFT IN HIS PARTY. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT RPP-NSP DIFFERENCE RUN DEEPER THAN DISAGREEMENT OVER AMNESTY ISSUE; DIFFERENCES ARE SAID TO INVOLVE NSP DISPLEASURE WITH RPP EDUCATION MINISTER OVER NUMBER OF IMAM HATIP (RELIGIOUS) SCHOOLS HE HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH.

4. FINALLY, THERE ARE PRESS REPORTS (A) THAT AMNESTY SUPPORTERS ARE URGING PRESIDENT TO VETO MEASURE (AND THUS MAKE POSSIBLE ANOTHER VOTE IN PARLIAMENT), AND (B) THAT SOME COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT ON TEMPORARILY RELEASING PRISONERS CONVICTED OF "CRIMES OF THOUGHT" AND COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES MAY BE FOUND.

5. COMMENT: MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS AT THIS POINT GIVE COALITION GOVERNMENT A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF SURVIVING THE PRESENT CRISIS. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, COALITION PARTNERS HAVE STRONG INCENTIVES FOR CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER. HOWEVER, ECEVIT HAS UNDERLINED NEED FOR RPP TO DETER-
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MINE WHAT IT HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH IF COALITION CONTINUES. FURTHERMORE, NSP IS NOT ALONE IN FACING INTERNAL PROBLEMS. YOUNGER, MORE LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN RPP REPORTEDLY ARE FURIOUS OVER GOVERNMENT'S DEFEAT ON AMNESTY ISSUE, AND GENERALLY UPSET OVER CONCESSIONS RPP HAS GIVEN TO THE NSP. FUTURE OF COALITION NOW APPEARS LIKELY BE RESOLVED IN NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BUT, IN USUSAL TURKISH STYLE, COULD REMAIN UNSETTLED FOR LONGER TIME.

SPAIN

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